SOURCE MATERIAL ON
CLARKE COUNTY Iowa

Melvin Goeldner

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from various original early sources dating from 1870's

Doyle Township

Through Fire

The first saw mill near Hopeville was several miles northwest on Grand river.

In the fall of 185_ William R. Osmond took a two-horse team and wagon and went to this saw mill for a load of lumber. Soon after leaving the mill he saw a prairie fire of wide extent approaching. The road lay between the bluffs descending to Grand river on one side and some tributary creek on the other, and for nearly a mile was a straight line with a gradual down grade. A prairie fire in tall dry grass is not a single thin sheet of flame and smoke. Flames leap ahead and start other lines: and the mat at the ground smoulders with heat and smoke and stifling gases behind these front lines. There was no escape to the right or to the left, nor by turning back. He had not a match with him to start a back-fire. He must go through these roaring flames. He went to the beginning of the long straight incline and as the oncoming fire began to come up this he stood up on his load of lumber and drove the horses into a full gallop. He knew they would try to stop just as they met the fire, but trusted to the momentum of the load of heavy, swift-moving lumber to force them through. But if either horse stumbled or was pushed down he would be thrown, strangling, crippled. The horses tried to stop but could not; neither of them fell. Father held his breath as they went through the flames and gases to avoid breathing them into his lungs, and came home with singed beard and hair.

Osmond-Keplinger Corn Mill

The colony raised a crop of corn the first summer, and there was a little grist mill (corn only) a few miles northwest of Hopeville on Grand river. This mill "froze up" early in the winter, and would be useless until warm weather. There was no other mill accessible with a loaded ox team and such roads (or non-roads) and snow and ice in less time, for a trip, than several days. So the colonists had to crack the corn with hammers, axes, stones, like primitive peoples, or make lye hominy, the lye from leaching hardwood ashes.

Osmond and Keplinger cut down a large black-oak tree and sawed out a section about four feet long, shaped it like a wine glass with thick stem and very heavy bottom, sawed it open lengthwise, hollowed out the bowl part of each half, fastened the halves together with wooden pins through the stem part and with a stout hoop or two around the top, and made a pestle with an iron wedge fastened in the bottom and a cross bar near the top for using it with two hands. Considerable corn was "ground" in this during the winter, for others than those who made it used it. Those who didn't mind the grind could make a pretty good meal.

The Indian War (?)

Though the United States had "extinguished" the Indian rights to the region, the government had not compelled the Indians to remove, and bands of them still camped and hunted in the country around Hopeville for some years after the settlement of the colony. A considerable band of Pottawattamies and Muskokees (locally pronounced Musqwakies) had a village across Grand river in Ringgold county. Though entirely peaceable, many of the white settlers in the surrounding country wanted to drive them out.

Two white men, living not far from this Indian camp, went out hunting one day in the summer of 185-, and only one returned. The other was found dead from a gunshot wound. The Indians were at once charged with the murder and an armed body of a hundred or so men gathered near their village within a few hours, and people fled from their homes and unfinished harvest fields in all the region around. A few, however, staid, among them my father, and our yard was full one night of wagons and campers fleeing from the murderous savages.

The Indians asked a little time to call in their hunters, nearly all away. When these came in, the "captain" of the whites demanded that the Indians give up their arms, which the Indians refused to do. It began to look warlike. A man living near Hopeville, William Prior,

knew a number of the principal Indian men, had associated with them and eaten in their wigwams. He restrained the impetuous valor of the whites and counseled the Indians to avoid a conflict which would be in large part a killing of women and children. If my memory is correct, they finally gave up their arms. There was no war.

While these martial events were transpiring, that one of the two white men that went hunting who returned alive, consoled the widow of the dead hunter by taking her somewhere far from the sad scenes of her bereavement.

The United States government sent a military escort to take the Indians and locate them on their own lands.

I. Thornton Osmond.

Note: These reminiscences were written in February 1925, by I. Thornton Osmond, a son of William R. Osmond, who for several years lived on his father's farm in Doyle township, Clarke county, Iowa. The author is now nearly 81 years of age, living at Carlisle, Penn. For about a third of a century he was a professor in the Pennsylvania State College, from which he retired some years ago. During the war period when the young men were away he supplied as principal of one of the schools near Harrisburg for two or three years.

Doyle Township and Hopeville
-(Written by Ella J. Osmond Ashley - March 1925)-

In the spring of 1851 several families moved into the southwestern corner of Clarke county, followed by more the next November. The township was not then named. These settlers held a meeting to organize the township and give it a name. Doyle, given by Wm Osmond was chosen. Hopeville was the town then as large or larger than Osceola . Located in a far corner, it naturally never grew in any way but to grow old.

These early settlers formed a Colony that lasted only a short time for every man wanted to boss his own work and do as he pleased. It was but a waste of time to try to work together, so they soon scattered onto farms of their own.

Land then cost $1.25 an acre; to those early settlers as much to pay as $125.00 would be today. The land was beautiful though the people who toiled to make homes here, shook with chills and burned with fever. The winters were hard to endure, for the houses were small and poor. the first ones all log cabins.

The first school house in Hopeville was a log cabin. Here both school and all public gatherings were held. Here the M. E. church was organized and held their meetings. By 1856 more people had moved in and the Baptists put up a little log house for themselves. People of the Christian faith who had come in organized and held meetings at the home of Dr. Jesse Emery. Small frame houses were taking the place of the cabins; about 1860 two frame churches, M. E. and Christian, were built. A frame school house took the place of the old log one. Prosperity was coming when the black cloud of war came and took away the yound men, many of them never to come back.

Hopeville, though it never grew large, holds in some ways a good record- never a murder or suicide in it; while preachers, teachers and missionaries were sent out of it. One of the first saloons was visited one dark night by women who poured out all the liquor they could find. Few were the drunkards among those early settlers. Horse thieves, yes there were some, and on account of this,one man was murdered in Doyle. A strong Anti Horse Thief League held this evil in check. The mistake of the first settlers was locating so far from the county seat. The cause of that was the need of timber and water.

Osmond-Keplinger Grist Mill

This mill was left on the Osmond farm until time rotted it. It was always spoken of by the family as the mortar block and stood many years near the front door with earth and flowers in it.

The Indian War

Was an injustice to the Indians. They came to the settlers' homes mostly trying to buy, sometimes begging. My folks never seemed afraid of them, they were sorry to have them driven out as they were. Seeing them cross my father's farm when leaving is one of my early memories. They carried one sick on a litter.

First Memory

The first thing I distinctly remember is going into a house without a roof; this was in 1854 when the logs were up on the Osmond farm. To cover this house my father, Wm R. Osmond, rived out of logs with a broadax, clapboards; they were three or four feet long and were used in place of shingles. They were as good to turn rain as any shingles and lasted many years. This house was 18 feet by 18 feet; a large house in early times, so large than an orphan boy was soon taken in, although we were a family of five.

Ella J. Ashley.

(Part of a letter written by Professor I. Thornton Osmond in February 1925, to his sister, Mrs. Ella J. Ashley.)

Dear Sister:

I intended to write to you yesterday, but did not, and this morning your letter came. Your remarks about the difficulty of getting writing paper in our early years brings to memory how much Mary wrote in those years, much more than I wrote. She had a bureau drawer full of verses that she wrote. I believe she told me once that she burned all this. I have nothing that I wrote earlier than printed articles published in the Osceola Sentinel. And that reminds me- that a few days ago the turning up of some of my articles cut from the papers that printed them set me to thinking as to what papers and magazines I had contributed and I counted 23 that had printed each from one to several articles written by me. I had no idea there were so many.

Now I will answer as well as I can your questions:

Members of the Colony: Charles Cheney, David Newton, Jacob Keplinger, William R. Osmond, Vincent Davis, Daniel Lease, William McCutcheon, _____Bennett. There was another member named, I believe, ____Brock, but they staid only a short time, a few weeks, and when we went in the fall (the "Colony" went out in the spring) we went into the cabin that was put up for them and spent the winter in it.

Charles Cheney was the moving spirit of the colony. He did not bring his family and came to live in Hopeville while the colony was in operation: he made a sort of link between it and eastern supplies by a huge 4-horse peddling wagon. William McCutcheon's oldest son was named Green Clay. I used to play with him. Samuel, a brother to William, was not a member of the colony. He soon married Elizabeth David, daughter of Vincent Davis, being the first marriage in the settlement. _____Bennett was a Methodist exhorter, with a housefull of children- all girls. There was another member named, I believe, _____Brock, as mentioned above, who remained but a short time. Dan Davis, oldest of four/or five sons and two daughters of Vincent Davis, and Lon Ketcham, stepson of David Newton, were generally the teamsters (oxdrivers) for any hauling. They drove the two oxwagons which moved us from Farmington to Hopeville. We were about a week on the road. We staid with the Davises whose house was on or near Long Creek east of Hopeville, for a few days while the abandoned Brock cabin was being repaired for us- probably "chinked and daubed" or a sod chimney built. Thomas Greggs were not in the colony neither were the Chews, tho they came in the spring of 1851.

The colony, except Cheney and Osmond, went out in the spring and planted some crop (corn) for the season; the next spring a somewhat larger planting was done; early the following spring(or late in the winter) there was a formal disbanding and each went to work for himself.

I suppose there was lack of any proper leadership. Cheney was a deist, freethinker; Newton a Universalist, Keplinger a Methodist class-leader, Bennett a Methodist exhorter, Osmond a Methodist, and I do not know what the others were. Of Methodist preachers, one of the earliest was a local preacher named Harper and lived in the eastern part of the county. He strongly impressed me as a very good man. Another early preacher, a "circuit rider", was ____Coiner, and there were some before him whose names I can not recall.

You mention Talmadge, one-armed. I took our two-horse wagon and moved him from Leon or Decatur City, may be, to Hopeville. Talmadge lost his arm in a Fourth of July celebration. Newton lost his leg from a diseased condition believed to be caused by excessive hop-step jumping. Cheney died not long after moving to Hopeville. Bennett soon moved away. Keplinger and his son John moved to Kansas about 1866. Davis, McCutcheon, Lease and Osmond lived and died within a few miles of Hopeville. The first physician who settled in Hopeville, I believe, was a Dr. Warfield. Mrs. Davis was the early obstetrician (she probably did not know such a word). David Newton staid in Hopeville 25 years or more, then moved to Oregon to live with his son, Jasper.

I. Thornton Osmond, Carlisle, Pennsylvania.

The Old Settlers' Meeting

(Copied from Mrs. Osmond's scrap book loaned for the purpose by her daughter, Mrs. Ella J. Ashley, May 1, 1925. -Nellie Richards.)

Last week the Democrat briefly noticed the annual reunion of the pioneer settlers of Clarke county, and promised to refer to it again in to-day's issue. It was held in the public park at Osceola, Wednesday afternoon, September 12, and was a success in all respects. The weather clerk kindly favored the old people with an oldfashioned September day, bright, clear and beautiful, and the roads were in good condition, so that it would have been remarkable if the attractive program, prepared by a committee and made public through the county press, had not brought out a large crowd.

The president of the meeting, Mr. Webster, was as full of life as a boy in his teens, and his occasional happy remarks and sparkling witticisms kept all present in a happy frame of mind from the moment the meeting was called to order until it adjourned. The old-fashioned songs and tunes, sung by James Harper, 'Squire Goss and two or three other pioneers, pleased and amused all who heard them, as also did the songs and violin music of Mr. Schochling, who in an early day was regarded as the best musician and vocalist in the county. Short speeches were made by J. D. Laws, 'Squire McDonough, Samuel Danner, H. W.Beckett and others. Mr. Laws congratulated the pioneers on the success of their meeting; spoke of the numerous changes that have taken place in the county in the past quarter of a century; referred to the conspicuous absence of pioneers who have gone to the spirit world; and in conclusion gave several good reasons in support of his opinion that the county's present greatest need is a new court house. Space forbids any reference to the remarks of the other speakers. Miss Mary Osmond read the following essay:

"History repeats itself is an axiom. But there is some history that can never be repeated. The conditions that made it possible may exist no more. Of that kind is a history that we, who lived here in early days, remember. No repetition of those circumstances can ever come about because everything is so changed.

The history of one township of this county rises before me as not likely now to ever be repeated anywhere. A Man Charles Cheny by name, living in Farmington, Iowa, on the Des Moines, conceived a scheme for settling a new country. He had read of committees holding goods in common. He was an imaginative, restless man, thinking of things other people cared little about.

The western part of Iowa was then unsettled and seemed remote. It seemed so because no railroad had ever been built in it and the 150 miles from Farmington to the part he chose took several days to travel.

Somehow he came to know of Clarke county, then new, its townships even not surveyed, named, or determined upon.

He was a man who knew how to influence others and he soon had a colony collected to go under his direction. They organized in Farmington. It was a regular society with constitution and by-laws all in due form, and its officers selected.

In the year 1850 they came. Stock in the association cost $100 a share, and most of the members were poor men to whom a hundred dollars was a great thing, so they owned but a single share. There was a visionary element in the whole business derived from its founder, Mr. Cheney. They might have located near the county seal, exactly as well as where they did, nut he was fascinated by the green hills and winding river in the southwest corner of the county. Indeed railroads had not then made a location near a county seat seem to be desirable as it does now.

During the time when the organization had been forming in Farmington, a name for it had been discussed and it was suggested to call it Hopeville. The name was chosen by a ladt teacher, Miss Evelyn Millard, and was like her, rather sentimental.

Moving to this county from Farmington was a tedious business. It was mostly done with oxen and from one to two weeks were occupied, often, in the transit. Houses were scarce and as each family arrived it went into a one or two roomed cabin with some other family to stay until another cabin was built. They were kindly welcomed and treated well by all. Everybody came to see them. About five families preceded the others a season, and they were the old settlers then. News was eagerly listened to from all new comers.

O, the wide expanse of the horizon then. Fenceless and treeless it stretched away, wide as the eye could look. And such a thing as nearsightedness was not known. The children of that time, used to the long outlook, acquired a keenness of eyesight that the children used to the short distances they can see now never again.

Wells for a few months were unknown. The prairie streams and springs supplied all water. One or two wells were dug at length, and water would be carried from these a half mile or more.

Oxen were the beasts used then for draught purposes. There was but a single pair of horses in the colony. During most of the three years the colony existed, about 30 men belonged to it and most of them were married men with families. There were not enough teams for all, but work of all sorts was to be done, notably rail splitting to enclose the large farm pre-empted by the company. This, the breaking up of the prairie, the planting and tending of the crop and the building of a cabin for each one was mutual labor. Every week a meeting was held, usually on Saturday evening to discuss plans and report progress. But that was not all. One of the many drawbacks to getting work done was the endless consultation. On summer mornings the young men would bring the oxen from the prairie and the older men, sitting on the fence would discuss whether it was best to plow the corn, or to mow the grass, best to break more prairie or spend the day fencing, until it was 9 o'clock.

Dogs were brought by the earliest settlers but cats were scarce. Only one was brought for over six months. Then others came riding in wagons all the long 150 miles. They were much thought of, for a long time. Hogs were scarce. The first year each colonist received less than one-half a hog for his yearly supply of meat.

Wheat was then as now, a doubtful crop, but it did grow, so that each one had a few pounds of flour for his share, but it was so dark that no one now would think it fit to eat. The bran could not be fully separated, and no middlings were taken out. Buckwheat was raised too, in small quantity, but the miller refused to grind it, and it was ground on coffee mills at home, sifted, and made into better buckwheat cakes than any ever seen now-a-days. But corn was the staple bread stuff. Two men usually tool two yoke of oxen and went to mill, being two days gone. They took a piled wagon body full of sacks of shelled corn and a lot of quilts, the latter to be used in making up a bed in the mill at night, and lunch enough to last until they returned. Then the grist was distributed to the families in even proportions, according to number. There came a time the first summer when

the meal was used up and corn was too soft to grind. Ten days of the time passed before corn could be dried by being carefully shelled, dried on sheets in the sun, and taken to mill. People lived on potatoes and other vegetables, actually without bread for that time. Groceries were a scarce article. Hardly any family used tea or coffee. The substitutes for coffee were various. Cornbread browned to a cinder, rye grains scorched, were the commonest. Willow leaf tea was in use. Many a family did not buy a pound of sugar for the first two or three years. One woman had a little white sugar in a bottle brought from the old home, and it was a curiosity to the children who saw it- something like a piece of lava to us.

Once in six weeks or two months a wagon came, a peddler's wagon, sent on regular trips from Farmington by the firm of which Mr. Cheney, the founder of the colony, was a member. It contained everything that was bought by settlers for the first two or three years, for no store was started before that time. Its coming made a sensation equal to a circus now. But money was scarcer than we can realize. Honestly, there is no doubt many of these families did not own $5.00 in money during the first year of their time there, They went there poor, and there was no market for anything. So they lived on what was raised in field and garden, and wore old clothes. It was the fashion to buy domestic muslin, color it with sumac berries or maple bark, and make it into dresses which would last for years. No man wore tailor made clothes then, for there was no tailor. Nor did a milliner come into that region for over five years. Sunbonnets were the only wear.

The earliest wedding of the colony was a great affair. It came in the coldest part of the winter of '51. Elizabeth Davis and Samuel McCutchen were married at her father's and the invitations were general, for the colony was nearly like a family. The men took a large bob-sled and two yoke of oxen and drove from house to house collecting the families who all went, to the youngest child. The bride's dress was as much a subject of comment then as it would be now, and it was neat but scarcely like one at the present time.

We have said there was no market, and that was the case at first. but in the course of time a market sprung up in this way. Travel from the eastern states to the farther west began to come along when the country was civilized enough to make bridges and roads. These bought provisions as they passed through. Corn brought $2.00 a bushel for a long time, and was paid for in gold. And these emigrants were accommodated in the houses of the people, for there were no hotels. A covered wagon with a woman and six or ten children in it, some beds stowed atop of other plunder, two jaded horses pulling it, a drove of cattle behind and a man driving them, would halt before the settler's door, halloo and ask to stay all night. Nothing but the severe sickness of the family would allow a refusal to be given. Then all dismounted, came in, got acquainted all around, and after the chores were done sat down by the big log fire in the fireplace till nine, talking of the news the travelers brought and of the price of land. Then the travelers' beds would be spread all over the floor and all would sleep the sleep of the just.

The colony men were not business men of much experience and affairs grew complicated. The common jealousies that will come in companies of that kind, arose, and everybody wanted to dissolve it and it was done by common consent. Each man had his own farm and the colony farm sold and the price divided, went into the hands of an individual. The company survey and ownership of the site of Hopeville was declared of no account and it was sold for a farm, and if the buyer had not found that he was expected to pay for its previous survey into town lots, no town would ever have been there. But he rebelled against it as an injustice before the sale was finished and the site was bought by David Newton who sold the lots and so became the founder of this classic city of our county.

I have written so much about the very early history of one of the two earliest settlements of this county. Let no one think these things mean that people were miserable. They were not. There was less anxiety about the means of life then than now. Wants were so much simpler and there was not so much competition in everything undertaken. Some mistakes were made of course, but if the people had been wealthier, progress would have been faster. The idea that the winters were

too cold to try fruit raising kept all the people of that region from setting orchards for years, except Thomas Gregg, and when his success was seen, others followed.

Of the people who settled there in 1850-51, but one family occupy the farm they entered. They did not belong to the colony. Its very existence will be a myth in a few more years, yet it was a pleasant reality while it lasted, at least to the children who lived in it and enjoyed its operations. And for two, maybe three, years of the first time no rules restrained them but they were free. Then a few schools began at long distances and some of the youngest went to school; but the hard work to be done prevented most of the older children from going to school at all.

Newspapers were not seen at all for some years, except old ones sent in parcels from some points farther east.

It is ended and new settlements now take with them all the advantages of an age better supplied than that, and the railroad carries them news and everything they need. So old times like these are forever passed away.

Mary Osmond.

From 1850 to 1881

(Poem written by Mary Osmond and read by her at the annual meeting of the Clarke County Pioneer Association.)

Forevermore impulses that can never rest
Cry loudly in the human heart, "Go West!"
Advice, it must be owned, the tranquil Greeley
Dealt out to bothered people rather freely.
And thirty years ago the west was here;
The west of red man, turkey, wolf and deer.

A breadth of land this new-made country lay,
Awaiting name and dwellers and survey.
A single road across to prairie trodden broad,
Marked where the victims of the false prophet's fraud
Made their weary march through wintry mire and snow,
And left the "Mormon trace" a score of years to show.

But '50 came, and some there were who saw the worth
Of these bright streams, this genial clime and fertile earth,
Then earliest claims were made and cabins raised,
And each stray comer hither heard its chances praised.

Never tales of gold were told to lure men here,
Away from distant households and things held dear;
And the new homes on these hillsides planted,
Were not like eastern ones, with perils haunted,
For its Indian braves were peaceful as the Whites,
And the wolves' shrill cry alone disturbed the nights.

They were only seekers after homes who came,
Men of earnest thought and patient, steady aim.
They were young men mostly, with fair unfaded wives
Who had not passed the hey-day of their lives,
And children, two or three, too young to know
Aught of schools and culture they must fain forego,

For though there were no perils to repel,
And no luring stories of this land to tell,
There were irksome things to cheat the times of pleasure,
And toil that left the limbs no grateful leisure.

The mover chartered then no car his goods to bear,
No store was here to furnish him new household ware.
More than a hundred miles away the mail awaited
Some show transit that a chance created.

Unhastened by his driver's yell, beneath the yoke
The ox, serene, the prairie in wide furrows broke.
The hand-swung cradle and the scythe's sharp blade,
In long windrows the grain and wild grass laid.

Yet those earlier days were full of cheer!
Gay those weddings when from far and near
Came, but brought no gifts, the guests,
To ply the pair with pleasant jests.
Man to man was kindly then, and the debtor
Found some mercy "till the times were better."

Oft times the belated work was done by "bees";
Many hands that made light labor, sure, were these.
The weary traveler knew that he might share
By every settler's hearth the homely fare,
Certain that all news he bore were welcome too,
And oft the only payment that his host deemed due.

But he who borrowed and he who lent,
Perchance his last cent long before had spent.
Simpler were life's forms, less too, its deceit,
Less its aspirations, lesser their defeat.

One by one the cabin homes have grown more rare
Till the children view them now with curious stare,
And scarce can think the laughter and the play
Of childhood there was gay as theirs to-day.
The well sweeps balanced aslant with tapering shapes,
No more make graceful pictures in our landscapes.

No ox yokes lie atilt by the zigzag fence rows,
With their double arch and curving bows.
Grove dotted now are all these hillsides,
Hedgerow and wire and fence the land divides;
The old claims now by certain title deeds secured,
In golden harvests recompense hardships endured.

The homes of farm and town are fair and spacious,
Their dwellers have time to be good and gracious.
Machin'ry does with fingers of iron and steel,
The olden work of needle and spinning wheel.
From east to west, the country's center through,
Extends the gleaming railway of the "Q".

By a narrower line from northward met,
Smaller, weaker, maybe, but its rival yet,
The news the tie-tacking telegraph speaks,
We read in fewer hours than once we waited weeks.
The telephone wires like a web outspread
Shine in the skies of our cities overhead.

O, later born, perhaps more cultured youth, look not askance on
speech or ways uncouth,
Of those who gave to hard needs of that time and place,
The precious years when life should gather love and grace.
Honor give those brave and hardy pioneers.
They conquered nature spite of toil and tears.

They won without the aids men now command
Who seek the homestead of a western land.
And some who live among us, aged and bent,
Dim-eyed, have youth's elastic form all spent.
More of them than with us yet we keep,
Have found the rest of life's last sleep,
While we reap on the slow but great reward
Of those whose worn hands fast-locked below the sward.
The whirl of three decades wrought all the change.
Can three decades bring us aught more strange?

Mary Osmond.

EARLY HISTORY OF JACKSON TOWNSHIP

by

John McDonough

This sketch of the early history of Jackson Township, written at the request of the Clarke County Federation of Women's Clubs, is compiled from the memories of one of the oldest living pioneers of the township. The main facts have been verified by Mr. Edgar Harlan, curator of the Historical Department of Iowa, whose assistance we gratefully acknowledge.

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In 1855 Mr. John Sullivan received a deed from the government to the Northeast Quarter of Section 30, built a cabin and as the country was getting too thickly settled for his liking, sold his land to Mr. Sebastain Shockling and moved farther west. Mr. Shockling improved this land and continued to own it at the time of his death, about 1900.

Pressly Johnson settled on the Northeast Quarter of Section 31 in 1853, coming from Indiana. Mr. Johnson had a large family and only lived a few years. After his death John Lewis was appointed administrator and as Mr. Johnson had property in Indiana it was necessary for Mr. Lewis to make a trip to that state. As the modes of transportation in those days were limited Mr. Lewis made the trip afoot. After making settlement he had five hundred dollars in gold to bring to Clarke County, Iowa, and as walking was still good and not crowded he carried the gold home in a belt concealed under his clothing.

Mr. Jas. B. Neal and Anna Neal with their family came to Jackson Township in 1857 from Grant County, Indiana, and settled on Section 31. They made their home there until their death, about 1870. They raised a large family, one of whom was Mr. C. W. Neal, who passed away only a few years ago. Mr. C. W. Neal lived continuously on his farm on Section 20 until he retired a few years before his death. His heirs continue to own the farm.

John Lewis entered the Northeast Quarter of Section 29 in 1855 and one year later sold it to Mr. Archabald Lowrey who came from Henry County. This Mr. Lowrey was noted as being the owner of the first reaping machine in the county. His farm is now owned by the heirs of Isaac M. Martin who was a very prominent citizen of Clarke County for many years but not a very early settler.

The present boundaries of Jackson Township were established by the government survey conducted by John J. Selman from September 30, to October 7, 1847. At that time there were no indications of any roads, and no signs of any settlement having been made within the borders of the township.

The first road in the township was a trail across the prairie in a general east and west direction, keeping mostly on the high ground to avoid crossing the streams which had to be forded. The road came into existence to connect the settlements in counties farther east with settlements already made in counties to the west. This road became the extablished Government Stage Route as early as 1848. The road entered Jackson Township at a place called the Turner farm in Lucas County. It became known that the stage route was changed to avoid this place.

This change in the road was for many years known as the Whiskey Cut-off. The general name of the road was the Chariton-Osceola Road as it connected these two towns. It has been straightened and improved and now forms a part of the fine paved road called the Harding Highway.

The only public vehicle was a great lumbering coach hung on leather straps for springs, which gave very little comfort to the eight or ten passengers. The mail was carried on these stages. They were drawn by four horses. The driver sat on top of the coach, exposed to all the inclemensies of the weather. The private vehicles, almost without exception, were farm wagons, without springs, and drawn by two oxen, for short trips. For longer trips and heavier loads, from six to eight oxen were used. Some few people had horses for riding. But in those days many people walked long distances if there was no heavy load to carry. We are told that Mr. John Lewis, the first settler in Jackson Township walked to Saint Louis, Missouri on a business trip. Until the year 1867 all freight was transported by private parties in wagons.

The early settlers entered their lands from the National Government in the Land Office at Chariton. They paid One Dollar and Twenty-five Cents ($1.25) per acre. These settlers did not come in colonies or large groups, and their homes were widely scattered. Nor were they of any one nationality nor creed. They came from the far east, from the Ohio valley, the Carolinas and Missouri. Most of these early settlers were vigorous young people who had come to the new country to obtain cheap land that they might establish homes for their families. Some came that their children might escape the temptations of city life and others were lured by the beauty of the country.

The sustaining power that kept those people happy and fairly well contented was the indomitable courage of the pioneer women. Many of them had left comfortable homes where they had been tenderly reared, to take up the hardships of pioneer life. But they would not turn back. They had cast their lot in that new life and they were willing to endure any hardship rather than suffer the ignominy of defeat. The women, as well as their husbands, had the vision of the development of this new country, when prosperity would surround them, when the vast prairies would be turned into flourishing farms, and they would see their own cattle on a thousand hills. They had the joys of owning their own homes, of cultivating their own flowers, of gathering their vegetables from their own gardens. They had the joys that comes from the friendships formed where they stood side by side near the bed of a sick child, or where one woman who was a good sewer, helped the less able ones to fashion clothes for the babies; and the other intimate relations of the early life such as making soft soap, rendering lard in a large iron kettle, or stirring pumpkin butter with a paddle on a handle six feet long. These things would seem trivial to the present generation, but through such things the pioneer women learned to stand shoulder to shoulder, to know the intrinsic worth of their neighbors and to value them for their sterling qualities.

These people had their sorrows, too; sorrows which would have crushed less valiant spirits. They were separated from their friends, their homes were poor, their provisions were often poor, and sometimes scanty. And they had their losses. There were no schools for their children, there were no churches, no doctors, no beautiful cemeteries where they might lay their dead, no libraries, almost no contact with the world they had left behind. It took a letter about two months to travel from Iowa to Pennsylvania. There were no envelopes, only the outside fold of the paper on which the letter was written. The postage on a letter was about thirty-five cents, paid by the one who received the letter.

They also had their gains. Their experiences gave them a firm foundation for life. They respected work, they expected to

rise by their own endeavors. They had the beauties of nature on every hand and their characters developed in accord with the wide prairies and the efforts necessary to subdue them and make them yeild the necessities of life.

The first settler in Jackson Township was Mr. John Lewis who came with his family from Indiana in 1851. He established his home on the farm which is now occupied by his grandson, Pearl Gray. His large family grew to manhood and womanhood on the same farm. Some of his children still live in Clarke County. A family named Hollingshead and another named Clarke soon after settled on the home farm which belonged to the estate of Levi Mason. They plowed some land and prepared to plant a crop. Another family entered a farm half a mile west of these people. The first mentioned families felt that settlements were encroaching too near, so they abandoned their holdings and moved on where they could have more space. Other settlers who came about this time, were William Pervis, with three children; a family named Ulm, and another named Level. Some descendants of this last named family are still in the county.

The families of Benjamin and Linsey Coppock were very early settlers. At least one of the family, Mrs. L. O'Neil, lives in Jackson Township at present. The Carson family came about this time. At least two members of the original family, Job Carson and Ephram Carson, besides many descendants are living in Jackson Township. John McDonough and his family, with his relatives S. Shockling and P. Casey and their families came from Pennsylvania in 1855. All the members of the Shockling and Casey families have gone to their reward. Those left of the McDonough family are scattered in five different states. From this time on settlers came in increasing numbers. Soon farms were laid, houses built, roads improved, bridges built and the country took on the appearance of prosperity.

Most of the houses were built of logs cut from the timber that grew along the creeks. Some of them were made of rough logs and some were hewn with a broad ax. The roofs were generally made of clap boards, split from a log with a tool called a fro. Every house had a large fire place which served to heat the house and to cook the meals. Some homes were meagerly furnished though most families brought feather beds and what pieces of furniture they could carry in their wagons with their families. In 1854 a portable saw mill stopped on Otter Creek. Mr. McDonough had lumber sawed from walnut logs to build his five room house which was the first frame house in the township. That autumn the frame of the house was erected and the roof put in position. In the winter a storm blew away the frame and roof. In the spring, when the family came to occupy their new home, they found the wreck a furlong's distance to the north, so they camped in their wagon on the prairie, as did many another family, till the roof could be raised when they moved into the shell of a house. This home soon became the stopping place of many immigrants.

Few people brought books with them on account of the difficulty in transportation. However, Mr. Shockling brought much fine music which proved a great joy to the people. Mr. Shockling, with his fine tenor voice and his violin, soon became widely known. Mr. McDonough had a good collection of books, which became almost a traveling library for the community.

In most cases the method of lighting the homes was very crude. A dish of lard with a twisted piece of cloth dipped into it and lighted at the free end was used to make light for the work that had to be done away from the fire place. Some people had candles made by pouring tallow into tin molds in which a wick had been suspended.

The food of the people was very plain. The meat supply for the first years consisted of pork and wild game, rabbits, squirrels and prairie chickens. At that time deer were not uncommon; groups of five or six were frequently seen feeding in the open. Honey

which the wild bees stored in the hollow trees was considered a great delicacy. Strawberries and small red plums and small grapes were the only wild fruits. As soon as the ground could be prepared, which was frequently the second season, the settlers planted the common vegetables, the seeds of which they brought with them. They planted wheat and corn to supply food for themselves and their animals. They obtained seed for these crops from settlers in counties east of Clarke. The ground was plowed mostly by ox teams, but the cultivating was done mostly by a single horse drawing a single shovel plow, and "A" shaped harrow made of heavy timbers through which large iron teeth were driven. The wheat was harvested by hand with a tool called a cradle. It consisted of a long blade like a scythe with a light frame work of wood built above it to hold the long straws till enough were cut to form a sheaf. A man following the reaper bound the bundles of wheat with a whisp of straw, and set the bundles in shocks to dry. A man who could cradle four acres in a day was a very good worker, and one who could cradle five acres was a champion.

The mode of threshing the grain was patterned after the manner of Biblical times. This work was postponed till the ground was frozen. A large ring was cleared on the ground and the dry straw was laid all around it. Then the yoke of oxen or the team of horses was driven around over the straw till the grain was lossened. The straw was picked up and turned over, the process of trampling went on. When the grain was all tramped out, the straw was stacked for winter food for the stock, or put over sheds made of poles for protecting through the winter. The grain was shoveled up and put through a fan to clean out the chaff and dirt. A little later a machine called a chaff piler, a specimen of which may be seen in the Historical Building, threshed the grain from the straw and piled grain, chaff, straw and all in one pile. This was run through the fan and cleaned the grain from the straw.

A mill for grinding corn was located on the creek south of Osceola. It was operated by a man named Orr. All the hulls of the corn went in with the meal. The housemother put the rough meal into a shallow box, the bottom of which was made of screen wire, and she shook it back and forth till the fine meal fell into the pan beneath. This meal formed the principle food of very many of the early settlers. And who will deny its virtues as a food? Many a brawny armed boy and rosy cheeked girl were raised on the excellent bread baked from it, or the mush eaten with milk and molasses. The wheat had to be taken to Red Rock on the Des Moines River to be ground. And for a few years many people went to Washington County and bought flour because the wheat in Jackson Township was destroyed by "scab", a condition brought about by hot sun after rain or fog. A neighbor took his ox team and wagon and with his wife and small children went to Washington County to get flour. On the return trip, a man having a two horse team drove into the river ahead of the ox team. (There were no bridges. All streams had to be forded.) When the horses team reached the place where the water was just to the wagon bed, one of the horses balked, and could by no means be induced to go forward. The man with the horses called back:

"Bring your oxen, and pull my team out."

"No," said the man with the oxen, "unhitch your horses and I'll see what I can do."

The horses were unhitched, the wagon tongue dropped into the water and the team taken ashore. The man with the oxen unhitched and mounting the ox, rode into the water. Now to get around the wagon he had to ride into deep water and to reach the wagon tongue had to wade in water so deep that all his garments were soaked. At length the oxen were fastened to the wagon. Their owner mounted the wagon and cracked his whip. The oxen curled their tails and set to the task. Soon the wagon was on dry land. But the poor little woman in the wagon with her babies , every minute dreading that the precious load of flour would be destroyed by the rising water! Her heroic soul rose above the difficulty, and she busied herself by teaching the babies about the orioles

that were singing in the trees. Her husband returned in time to prevent the flour from being spoiled. Thus each pioneer stood by his neighbor.

The love of nice clothes was not forgotten when the people came west. Many ladies brought silk dresses and dress bonnets, and beautiful shawls, for shawls were almost the only wraps worn by women. Of course they brought their hoop skirts, some of them so large they would not go through an ordinary door. They were necessary for fashionable attire. Some people put them on babies not old enough to walk. A girl who had no hoop skirt fastened a barrel hoop or a piece of grape vine in the bottom of her skirt, and the result was displayed with pride. The men wore boots that reached their knees. Low shoes of any kind were not used except for dancing. There were no overshoes till a little later when some few were made of buffalo hide with the hair inside.

In 1846 a small settlement was made at Green Bay, then called Lost Camp, and near the same time a few people remained for about a year near Smyrna. These were detachments of Mormon who had stopped to recuperate. These settlements had no influence on the later settlement of Jackson Township.

In 1850 the beginning of the present town of Osceola was laid. A log storeroom was owned and operated by a man named George Howe. He sold very common quality of calico at Sixteen and Two-thirds Cents (16 2/3¢) per yard, and woolen goods were almost an unknown quantity.

The hotel consisted of two rooms built up of rails and covered with slough grass. A post office was established there.

The first town in Jackson Township was Ottawa, located on the farm now owned by Mr. Evans. A post office was located there in 1858. The old frame building is still standing. The post master's name was Barclay Burrows. He also kept a small store. There was a blacksmith's shop established by John Morrison.

Beside cultivating their crops the farmers had many other things to do. They hewed the logs for their houses, split rails with which to fence their farms, and made troughs for their animals to drink from by hollowing out a log with a tool called a texile. They made brooms by splitting hickory wood into shreds and tieing the shreds around a straight stick. Men, women and children gathered Snake Root, a plant that grew about the edges of hazle thickets and used it as medicine.

The women in the homes had many industries that are not considered part of the household duties. Sheep were soon brought into the settlement for the people found that by raising sheep they could replenish their supply of clothing. The women spun flannel. The yarn was colored to suit the taste of the worker, or I might better say, it was dyed the color that could be made from the dyes that could be found at hand. Some sheep had dark grey or brownish wool which did not need to be colored. A good brown was colored with walnut hulls. Yellow was secured by the use of a plant which grew on the prairie and was called ornetta, I think. The Store-keepers, seeing the necessity, brought lowwood to color black, madder for red, and indigo for blue. The women became expert in the use of the dyes and of their looms, and made really beautiful cloth. This cloth was used for almost the entire wardrobe of the women and children. There was very little fine lingerie in those days. Men's underclothes were made of the same cloth. Socks and stockings for the whole family were knit by hand from the yarn. Even the little children learned to knit. It is related that Mrs. C. W. Neal, who now lives in Osceola, and who is a daughter of Mr. John Lewis, before mentioned, knit her own stockings when she was five years old. It was by such things that the children of the pioneers learned the industry and self-reliance that carried them on to prosperity in later life. Many women wove, not only for their own families, but helped fill the family purse by weaving for others. Mrs. Winkler and Mrs. Baldwin wove fine blankets and rag carpets.

There was a woolen mill at Palmyra in Warren county where much of the wool was taken for carding, this being a slow process at home. One fleece of wool would make cloth enough for a boy's suit. Sewing was all done by hand and included not only the light work, but the Men's heavy wear, suits and overcoats. Some even made very good looking hats by braiding oats straw and sewing it into shape.

The women had many other kinds of work. They took care of the chickens and helped with the young pigs and lambs, many times bringing them into the house to warm them, and they fed them milk with a spoon to save their lives.

Making of the candles devolved upon the women, as also the making of soft soap. This soap making is almost a lost art, but it is one that should be recorded in history for it was one of the most necessary as well as most diagreeable works that had to be done by the pioneer woman. They collected the ashes from the fire place and put them into a bin or barrel with holes in the bottom. When the barrel was full of ashes, water was poured over till it leaked through and carried the lye into a recepticle under the barrel. The lard or tallow already collected was placed in a large kettle and the lye poured over it. The kettle was hung on a pole supported by two stout forked sticks and a fire was built under it. The contents of the kettle was stirred with a paddle on a handle some six feet long, till the ingredients had become throughly mixed and changed into a soft jelly like mass. This soap was apt to be extremely strong, and while it was not the best for removing dirt, it did take the color out of clothes and the skin from the hands of the women. But what was hard work or the loss of some skin as compared with cleanliness in the minds of these brave women. Fruit was very scarce and the women made a substitute in the form of pumpkin boiled with molasses till quite thick. The molasses was made from the juice of a plant called sorgum, or sugar cane, and it was used as a substitute for sugar.

The pioneers encountered many difficulty on account of lack of training for the new life they were undertaking. Many of them had lived in cities all their life and knew not the first principles of farming. Some did know corn or potatoes when they saw them growing, some did know a horse or how to plow corn. The people who had come from farms were more fortunate in their prosperity was more assured. Here again they came to the aid of the needy ones. Those who knew the way of the farm taught the others how to plow, sow and reap, how to milk the cows, set the hens and feed the lambs. The difference in food and in their mode of living caused a great deal of sickness. Typhoid fever and kindred diseases were common. Ague attacked almost every family and sore eyes seem common to everyone. There were almost no conveniences for caring for the sick. Women who were naturally good nurses were called for miles to do what they could to save lives and relieve suffering.

At the time of the establishment of Jackson Township there were no Indian tribes located there. In 1857 a band of about three hundred Pottawattamies camped for a time on Otter Creek about north of where John Shively now lives. They were friendly and they did not beg, but had money to buy food from the farmers. Some of the Indians were dressed in an assortment of white men's clothes but some adhered to their blankets. When the white people went to visit them the Indians laid a dry buffalo skin on the ground and beat upon it with a stick for music while the braves danced. They used only a few words of English. A few times after this small bands went through the country. One band had a sick woman who was carried, or rather dragged along, on bed of bushes fastened to two poles which served as shafts, and all drawn by a pony.

Most of the pioneers had large families of children. These children became acquainted though they lived miles apart and many were the gatherings of those happy clans. The little children were entertained with the same games as they now play, such as Button, Button; Hide and Seek; Mumbly Peg; Sheep in My Pen, and etc. But the most pleasing pas--time for the little ones was the stories

harles Baxter, lawyer; b. Osceola,
e. John N. and Judith W. (Webster)

told by their elders. Catherine Smith, a German girl who lived in the home of Mr. Shockling, was famous for her fund of fairy stories, including the favorites of the present day, and she was an unfailing source of pleasure to the little people. The grown up young people enjoyed the singing games such as Weevily Wheat, Dusty Miller, Skip to My Lou, and many others of the same variety. Dancing was a common recreation among young and old. Any home large enough to accommodate a "square dance" might be invaded any evening when Mr. Shockling could come to make music for dancing. The Virginia Reel and Money Muck were favorites, though all the square dances were in use. No one used the "round dances".

The first school house built in Jackson Township was known as the Lewis School. It was located a little to the southeast of the present school of that name. It was built of logs and had a large fire place at one end. When this building was no longer used for school it was moved three miles north and changed into a residence of which it still forms a part. This building was erected in 1856. The first teacher was Elihu Gardner. Some of the pupils who attended school there belonged to the families named Roberts, Neal, Hines, Adamson, Davenport, Lewis and others. A year later a school was established in Ottawa. This, also, was built of logs, with a fire place in the end. Some of the stones and sticks of which the fire place was built became displaced, leaving a hole through which small children could slip outside. The older children would induce the little ones to slip out and gather gum from the rosin weed that grew on the prairies. The children carried the gum in their mouths and distributed it to the older ones when they returned through the hole in the wall. One of the early teachers was named Steve Hamilton. A large girl named Alice Adams did not get along very well with the teacher. One day he slapped her with a book. She grabbed him by the beard. The slapping, pulling, punching and wrestling went on till the little children were terribly frightened. Pupils came from a wide scope of country. Some of the families represented were Romine, Mackey, Chambers, Reese, Harding, Abrams, Carson, etc. In these schools there was no regular course of study, and not even an adopted set of text books. One child might bring a reader, one an arithmetic and another a speller regardless of text or grade. Some had no books at all, but borrowed from the more fortunate ones. The teacher asked Little Joe Adams where his book was. Joe answered, "I haven't any. My Papy's gone to California. When he gets ten cents he is going to send it back to me and I'm going to get a spelling book." True to promise, the spelling book materialized. In 1861 a third school was organized. It was located a little north of the school house which at present stands just across the road from Mr. Neal's farm. It is a frame and has two windows on each side. Most of the seats in this school room, as in the other schools mentioned, were made of split logs with sticks fastened through them to serve as legs. There were no backs to the seats. The floor was swept with a broom made of hazel brush. Water for the children to drink was carried in a pail from a house almost half a mile distant. The water was passed from child to child, by one carrying a long dipper. Each child took a sip and passed it on to the next one. If a child must wash his hands, some one poured a little water on his hands, and he wiped them on his handkerchief, if he had one. In the absence of the handkerchief, a shirt sleeve or a petticoat was brought into requisition. But this school house boasted of two pieces of furniture which the others did not have, namely a cast iron stove and a black board! The stove was not very steady on its legs and sometimes fell over when the children wrestled around too much. The blackboard was about four by nine feet. The chalk used was common carpenters' chalk. The eraser was a piece of sheep skin with the wool on it. The old building is still standing. It is used as a garage on the McDonough farm. The first teacher in this school was Miss Carrie Burrows, who afterward married Bos' Reese. Later the family moved to Nebraska. Some of the families who sent pupils to this school were Casey, Wilson, McDonough, Hamilton, Lowery, Shively, etc. The school meeting which organized this school consisted of two men, Alex Wilson and John McDonough. The first

named voted for the second man for director. The second returned the compliment by making the first secretary. Unfortunately the records of these early schools are all lost. The only means of verifying the statements is the memory of the old students.

Spelling schools, that is contests in spelling between the different schools, became popular. Great rivalry existed between schools, and wonderful progress was made in spelling. To be champion speller was a high honor. Singing schools where the do, re, mis were taught attracted quite an attendance.

Ready money was very scarce. There was no bank in Jackson Township till 1895. Some merchants loaned money, but the rate of interest was twenty-four percent which was prohibitive. A few things, as taxes and marriage licenses, had to be paid in cash. Other debts were more often paid in farm produce, or return of work. A bushel of wheat or a days work paid the Justice for performing the marriage ceremony. The minister's salary was paid in cabbage or other vegetables sometimes supplemented by a 'coon-skin or a brace of prairie chickens.

The early citizens were peaceful and law abiding and almost no crimes were committed. It was necessary to have some officers to acknowledge deeds and such civil actions. John McDonough was the first Justice of the Peace. Mr. Calfey was the first legislator elected by the people.

Itinerant ministers of the gospel were early in the country. They held meetings in the school houses. The first Catholic priest, Father Mitchel, passed through the community on a trip farther west in 1858. Mass was celebrated in the home of John McDonough. The first church building was the Methodist church erected at Ottawa in 1866. The articles of incorporation, bearing the names of all the trustees are now in the hands of John McDonough, Jr. Mr. Reed was the first minister. After the foundation of Woodburn, a Presbyterian, a Catholic, a Baptist and a Christian church were built. About 1880 a Christian church was built in the Lewis school district. Later it was abandoned as a place of worship and some two years ago was sold and removed. The Adventist church was established in 1870. A building was erected, also in the Lewis district.

About the beginning of the Civil War a large number of immigrants had come from other states. The Government land was all taken up and the price of land had advanced to Two Dollars and Twenty-five cents ($2.25) per acre.

At the time of the Civil War, sentiment was very strong in favor of the Union. Only a very few people were in opposition and they were careful not to express their feelings publicly. Rallies with speakers, patriotic songs, parades etc., were numerous and attended by great crowds. Companies were formed and drilling began at the first sign of war. Almost every abled bodied man volunteered. Boys not old enough to go to war were anxiously awaiting the day when their age would allow them to go. Later in the war a few men were drafted. Women and children were left to run the farms and care for the stock, with the help of a few old and sick men who were at home. There is no exact record of the soldiers except the war records at Washington. The only reference work available here is the Congressional Record of the Civil War in the Osceola Library. Many of the Jackson Township soldiers belonged to Company D. Fifteenth, Iowa. In an article of this length it is impossible to give the names of all the soldiers. Among the first volunteers were C. W. Neal, Joab Johnson, Tom and John Davenport from the southern part of the township, Lute Thomas, Alf. Harding, Jim and Tom Carson from Ottawa. The two Davenport boys were killed in battle, Joab Johnson was so seriously wounded that he died from the effects of the wounds. Watt Clark died from illness contracted in camp. Jacob Shively was sent home with the illness which caused the lameness from which he still suffers. Luther and Crampton Thomas were taken prisoner and almost died from starvation and exposure in Andersonville. At the close of the war the

soldiers were welcomed home with every demonstration that the loving hearts of the citizens could invent. There were parties, dinners, dances, picnics, festivities of all kinds, the center of which was the returned soldiers.

There has never been but one serious crime attempted in Jackson Township. That was in 1864 when three unknown men entered the home of Joseph Chambers, affectionately called Uncle Joe, and demanded his money. (It was known he had lately sold a flock of sheep in Missouri) In the altercation which followed, Mr. Chambers was shot, but he finally recovered. Three local men were suspected of the crime and arrested. They were cleared in the justice court and also by the grand jury. Years afterward a man who was being hung in Missouri, confessed that he was one of the men who attacked Mr. Chambers.

In the early days the people had no means of disposing of their surplus stock except by driving them to some of the river towns for sales. Neighbors living four to six miles on each side of the public road sold their hogs to one man, and after he had collected three to five hundred hogs, he with his drovers, took the hogs to market. Hogs walk slowly, so the drive could move only five or six miles a day. All the men who did the driving must walk. The peculiar call which men used to call the scattered hogs for food was Pigoo'ee, with a very long stress on the second syllable, like this: Pigoooo'ee. When they wanted to drive the hogs forward they said; Se boy', with the accent on the second syllable, The men's wages were fifty cents a day and they traveled all day without stopping for a midday meal. They had a song with which they cheered the way:

"Fifty cents a day and no dinner,
Corn bread and no butter,
Straw bed and no "piller"!
Schoy!"

One of the important State activities in which Jackson Township took part was the founding of the Iowa Agricultural College at Ames. The Legislature appointed a committee, of which Mr. McDonough was a member, to locate and purchase grounds for the College. The Committee meetings were held at Dubuque. There being no other means of travel, Mr. McDonough usually rode horseback. From Mr. Lewis he borrowed a pair of saddle bags in which to carry his belongings. One time he was to ride from Osceola to Des Moines with a man who was driving a buckboard. There he would take a democrat wagon for Dubuque. The man forgot the arrangement and started off without his passenger. Mr. McDonough knew of a shorter road by which he might overtake the buckboard. He walked so far and so fast that his feet were blistered and all his toe nails came off. The first building was completed in 1868 on the present site at Ames. The school was formally opened in 1869.

When the Railroad came into Jackson Township in 1867 it brought about a decided change in conditions. Stages and buckboards disappeared, freight was all carried by rail and travel became more general. The first engine and cars looked like toys compared with trains of the present day. The fire in the engine was fed with wood, great piles of wood being placed along the track near the station. It is said the little town which sprang up around the station is called Woodburn on account of this wood. This is still the only railroad station in the township. The passenger cars on this first train had iron framed seats covered with matting. They were heated by a small wood stove in one corner. The fuel was piled in a box behind the stove. A tin cup was chained to the can. Crude as it was, the people were delighted with this great improvement and held those who were instrumental in bringing it about as benefactors. H. C. Sigler, the first banker in Osceola, was perhaps the one who had the greatest influence in bringing the railroad through that part of the county.

These pages sketch the history of the first twenty years of Jackson Township. Later years are within the memory of most of its

inhabitants and can safely be left for them to record.

The contrasts that appear between the first years and the present fill one with amazement. We think of those wide prairies without even a trail, now with a net work of well kept roads, chief of which is the Harding Highway, that is the greatest improvement that has even been made in the township. Where only a few bands of Indians roved, thousands of highly intelligent people make their homes. Where the deer roamed hundreds of high bred cattle are fed and great numbers of hogs are sent to market. The prairies are all converted into flourishing farms. The wild grass is all replaced by tame grasses. The beautiful wild flowers that covered the hills are all gone except those that are native to the woods. The scattering log school houses are replaced by modern buildings where every child in the land is offered a good education. The old ox wagons are replaced by automobiles. The humble homes of the pioneers are replaced by comfortable and beautiful modern homes. With all these changes Jackson Township remains a farming community with the freedom, independence, prosperity and happiness, that in the best sense, belongs in a farming country.

FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP

Franklin, is the township located in the southeast corner of Clarke county and in the early days, what was a dense wilderness of timber and prairie, inhabited by Indians has been transformed into a region of thrift, by the energy and labor of its upright, honest people. Comfortable homes and cultivated fields of corn, and broad acres of waving grain and meadows, have replaced the scattered cabins and garden patches of the pioneers.

Robert Jamison was the first settler of Franklin township and was also the first permanent settler of Clarke county. He selected a homestead in section nineteen, Franklin township on May 1, 1850. It was situated on the Mormon Trail, a well traveled road which was traveled by the Mormons on their way to Salt Lake City, Utah, and this road was also the trail of the California travelers who were on their quest of gold.

Mr. and Mrs. Jamison moved to their new home from Monroe county. Iowa, with their three children and all their earthly possessions in a two wheeled ox cart, here he erected a log cabin near the site where now stands a large nine room house built by him some years later, they were the parents of nine children, their eldest son John H, when seventeen years old enlisted in the War of the Rebellion in the sixth Iowa Infantry, he was wounded in battle at Dallas, Georgia, and was mustered out of service in July 1865, he then finished his education and taught school for several years and at one time was County Superintendent of schools, he was later elected Clerk of the Courts in Clarke county, a position he held for eight years, afterward he was appointed to a position in the Pension Department at Washington D.C., which he held up to the time of his death in 1911. Another son Louis G. received his education in the Garden Grove schools and was successful as teacher in the Township for several years, he engaged in the mercantile business with his brother Frank M. in Weldon, Iowa for some time. Later the partnership was dissolved and he engaged in farming for many years, he is now retired and living in Weldon. Frank M. moved his general store to Osceola l ater where he carried on an extensive business for many years. He died in 1931. The fourth son James H. received his education in Garden Grove, Iowa and also took a Business course in the Normal School at Valparaiso, Indiana, he studied law at Osceola, Iowa with McIntire Brothers and later practiced law in Osceola under the firm name of Jamison and Park, during this time he served in the Iowa Legislature six sessions in the Senate. Twenty years ago he moved to Des Moines and became President of the Western Life Insurance Co. in which position he served eleven years. He died in Des Moines in 1932.

The youngest son, Thomas B. now owns and operates the farm his father entered in 1850. It is in a high state of cultivation, there is a large acreage of fruit on the farm, the choiest varieties of apples, peaches, pears, plums, cherries and all kinds of small fruits. There is a large dairy herd of cattle and with the cooperation of his two sons, Charles S. and Robert A. is carrying on a lucrative business, he takes a deep interest in the affairs of the Township and does much for its advancement. He has held many offices of trust. In politics he is a staunch republican and an enthusiastic worker for the cause.

Robert Jamison died in 1907 at the age of ninety-one years.

John Kyte one of the pioneers of Franklin Township also came here in 1850 and in 1856 was married to Jane Boggs and built a home on his claim in section nineteen and twenty, his brother Frank M. Kyte, with his mother, Catherine Kyte and his three

brothers, William, Hamilton and Harvey Kyte came in 1852, they settled on a claim in section thirty where they lived for a number of years. After her three younger sons moved to Missouri Mrs. Kyte made her home with her daughter Mrs. Robert Jamison. She died in 1894 at the advanced age of 101 years.

Frank M. Kyte in 1861 enlisted in Co. F. Sixth-Iowa Infantry and served four years in the war of the Rebellion, after he returned he taught school for several years and in 1869 was elected auditor of Clarke County and in all served in that capacity for twenty years, he served one term as State Representative and was Census Director for the Eighth District in 1900. He was married to Nancy L. Key in 1868. They were the parents of four children, Charles, Laura, George and Helen. He died June 9, 1908.

Dickinson Webster Sr., one of the early settlers of Franklin Township located here in 1851. He was one of the most prominent citizen in the early days of the county, he taught the first school in the township, a log school house on Chariton Creek in 1852, for some time the only schools were subscription schools, other early settlers who taught these schools were Jasper McAlister in the home of his brother Marshall and John Grimes taught one school in 1853.

Free schools were started in Franklin Township in 1857, there was a graded school taught by L. G. Jamison, in Smyrna 1871.

Marshall McAlister and his family settled in the Township in 1851 and he and his enterprising family of four sons did much for the developement of their community.

John M. Gates with his family settled on Section twenty-eight in 1853 on a tract of government land he had entered, his grandfathers, David Gates, and John Wills were both soldiers in the war of the Revolution.

S. Wyatt was also one of the early pioneers. His first house was a rude cabin built of logs on land purchased from John Jackson in 1854. The cabin is gone and an elegant residence stands on the site.

John W. Hood came to Clarke county in 1852, he bought and entered claims in Franklin Township to the amount of 280 acres, the land office being at Chariton, in 1856 he made a permanent location on his land, in 1861 he engaged in buying and shipping stock and was the first to make a shipment of stock from Clarke county and was also the first to introduce and exhibit Shorthorn cattle in the county.

Arch Ratliff came to Franklin Township in 1851 and settled on a claim near Smyrna, George and James Glenn were also among the early pioneers.

The first church in this part of the county was the Methodist church in Smyrna built in 1869, previous to that time church services were held in the school houses.

Iowa furnished 75,000 soldiers for the Civil War, Clarke county furnishing her full quota, and Franklin township furnishing thirty-six of them.

The leading church of the township is located near the center and is of the Friends denomination. It is a beautiful modern rural church and would do credit to many of the churches in the towns, there is also a comfortable parsonage near by. The surrounding country is settled mostly by people who worship here and are the finest law abiding people to be found anywhere, many of them own their farms and have fine modern homes.

The Farm Bureau has a large organization in this township and

much interest is displayed among both men and women. The girls are interested in their 4H work and the boys have their calf clubs and many times are winners.

Our ancestors, and other pioneers have told us of the primitive manner in which they were compelled to keep house, for the simple reason there was no other or better way to take care of their house hold and its inmates. They have also told of the hardships and make shifts they endured in order to give as far as possible, comfort and sustenance to their growing families. Their homes were principally log cabins of one or two rooms in which a family of six or eight, or more were housed, in some instances one door the only outlet. The floors were plain boards, sometimes sanded.

Some housewives felt rich if they had a few home-made rugs either of braided cloth or corn husks, to cover the boards. Beds were of hard wood with cords stretched across to hold the mattress which was made of straw or husks, sometimes the cords became thin and would break, letting the occupants upon the floor in no easy manner. It was not a pleasant thing to be suddenly awakened in the night by the bed dropping to the floor from under some tired body. As the houses were small beds for the children were provided called trundle beds, and which for the benefit of the family and the hoop skirts, and for more space in the living room during the day, were pushed under the larger beds, and in order to hide these trundle beds, and various other things under the bed, the valance was brought into vogue.

The cooking for the family was done over, or before the fireplace, or in what were called bakeovens, these ovens were usually outside the house built of brick or stone. In order to bake, a fire was built inside and allowed to remain therein until the oven was heated sufficiently hot, then the fire was raked out and the food placed in it to bake until done which was a slow process taking hours to accomplish. They tell us though that beans slowly baked in these ovens were delicious, and in fact much better than those baked now a days in the modern way. Cooking utensils were generally iron, brass or copper, the copper and brass required a great deal of scouring to be in condition for cooking. The iron kettles were very large and heavy, and were hung on large hooks over the fire place or put upon the coals. In these kettles originated our long known and much loved boiled dinners, for the home maker had not the time, space or utensils in which to cook each vegetable separately. Our grand mothers knew no thing of well balanced meals, of vitamins or calories, neither did they have the proper knowledge in the scientific feeding of infants and children, yet they managed to feed and bring up large families. Canning was practically unknown. Their fruit such as apples and peaches were either preserved or sliced and dried, more often this fruit was strung on strings, tied together and hung on the rafters in the kitchen, slowly gathering dust and flyspecks. Nothing was known of sanitation or microbes. Our grand mothers kept clean because they wanted to and not for the reason they were scared into it by germs. However, this process of preparing fruit for drying was one source of enjoyment for the young people. Parties were arranged and the young folks invited to these paring bees, and the young man of that period was as pleased to take his chosen one to a gathering of that kind as a boy of today enjoys going to motion pictures or a street carnival with his best girl.

They had no wells or cisterns to supply the family with necessary water for cooking or otherwise. The cabins were built as near a running stream as possible, and the water was carried from these brooks until wells were dug or blasted from rock.

The women in those days were obliged to spin and weave nearly all the material used in making the clothing, table linen and bed linen used by the family. Later on their supplies were occasionally

brought to the door by pack peddlers and displayed before the ladies from which to make selections. But most everything was made at home and used until worn out. They did not and could not discard them because they were out of style, for the style never changed and was handed down to the next youngest of the family.

The lights in those early days were candles and were made by the women in the home from tallow, it was a long laborious and greasy job, and when finished the candles gave a poor flickering light, but as they were the best the country and times could provide, the people were content and pined not for electric lights and power plants for these things were simply unheard of and not even thought of and would have been classed with fairy tales.

No telephones relieved the lonliness of the dwellers or permitted them to ring up a neighbor to learn of the latest news of the community. No radio help to brighten the labors of our over-worked grandmothers. When they took a trip it was not in a Ford or some other high powered car but it was on the back of old Dobbin behind the man of the house, or in a home made cart drawn by a yoke of oxen, with no danger of a blow out, the engin being killed, or something wrong with the spark plugs, for the animals were slow but sure and would reach the journeys end in safety.

The housewives in the pioneer days simply took care of their homes and families, they occasionally went out to a sewing-bee, quilting or something of that kind. They knew nothing of public life, were never put on committees, never elected to school boards, in fact there were few schools, were never allowed to vote and were considered unable to cope with or participate in the questions of the day, but considering it all they were happy and enjoyed their blessing to the fullest extent.

In the early pioneer days in Franklin township there was not a newspaper in the homes of the settlers, and a letter from the old home was considered a great event, now the mail is brought daily to the homes, by the rural carrier over one of the best routes in the state of Iowa, as pronounced by the government inspector.

When we view the blessings we enjoy, we should reverence those who made them possible and cherish a memory of the old pioneers.

HISTORY OF CLARKE COUNTY

BY

MRS. GAUMER OF MURRAY

The very first white people to claim this part of country as their place of residence were stragglers from the Mormons. They not being cordially treated in Illinois found it best to leave Nauvoo and cross the plains to regions remote from other settlements. This was in 1847. A large company spent the following winter in Garden Grove Decatur County, but a few families loosing their way, fixed their winter quarters at a point called "Lost Camp," which is about six miles south of Osceola in the present Green Bay Township. Four families were in the camp. They had no idea of staying here, but wanted a stock of provisions with which to make their way on to Utah. They remained three years.

In the spring of 1850, several settled in Clarke County. Robert Jamison and John Kyte came to Franklin township. In 1851 a great number came almost every township receiving some permanent settlers. Among these who came in that company were David Newton, Jacob Riplinger, Dr. Lucas, David Enery, William and Joseph Rilece, Benjamin Prior, Wyat Adkins and Joel Adia.

There came to Washington township, William Evans, John Turner, Ferdinand Brown, Jake Grover and The Kimballs.

There came to Troy township the following: William Bell, Dr. Rosa, Stephen Messenger, Cyrus Holcomb and J. E. Wick.

There came to Madison Township, Lenore Bennett, Jeremiah Johnston and Carson Lyons.

To Knox towhship, William Otis, A. J. Crew and A. T. Smith.

From this time on the new arrivals were numerous until our county was well settled.

So far as I have been able to find, there are only three of the old pioneer log houses left in Clarke county, one of these is five miles north of Murray which was the first home of Aaron Lyons. Another one is nine miles south and three miles east of Murray which was the old Fullerton home in an early time. The last one is two and one half miles south and one mile east of Hopeville which was the Joseph Rilea home.

In those days, before there were churches, occasionally a minister came along and a three day meeting would be held in a grove, east of Hopeville. At such times people from Madison and Washington township made the long drive of thirty miles, with team and wagons to attend these services. In so doing they passed over the land where Murray now stands, which was then a wide prairie, these visitors were happily entertained in the Cabin houses. It is hard for us to imagine the plight of these pioneers one man lost his hat in a high wind. He made a vain attempt to recover it, but the prairie was endless so he went without hat all summer as there were no stores where he could buy another.

Grain was taken to Winterset to the mill, later a mill and carding machine was built at the Renold ford, still later a mill was builded at Westerville, the mill dam at this place has only been out a few years.

David Newton had the first store in Clarke County at Hopeville and Joshua Pounda was the first school teacher.

The town of Murray is second largest point in Clarke County, situated ten miles west of Osceola in section ten Troy township.

It was laid in 1869 by Sigler and Mallery of Osceola and Chariton. It occupies a track of 120 acres. The first building being a temporary ware house, which was later torn down and replaced by a regular station building. Murray was incorporated in 1880. In 1851 the name of the Hopewell colony was changed to Hopeville.

The first election was held in 1851 at the residence of William Gustin, three miles south east of Osceola. Thirty-seven votes were cast and the following officers elected John A. Lindsley, Judge, Alona Williams, clerk, Perez Cowls, treasurer and recorder, George G. Glenn, assessor, Irison Ellis, sheriff, Robert Jamison, school commissioner, Jerry Jinks, surveyor, and Dickinson Webster, John Sherar, and Bernard Arnold, county commissioners. On the sixteenth day of August 1851 Bererly Searcy, James Graham and Samuel Bishop were appointed by the legislature to locate the seat of Justice for Clarke county they made selections of the present site of Osceola, the first court was held in Osceola in 1854 by Judge Townsend. Every neighbor seemed anxious to bring something before the new tribunal, one of the first cases was between Alfred Rhodes and his son-in-law John Campbell both of Liberty township. They had traded horses and each accuused the other of lying, each suing the other for slander, this was in Squire Millers Justice Court. It became necessary to transfer the scene of war to Circuit court before which the whole neighborhood was summoned as witnesses. William Campbell, the uncle of John Campbell testified, the other side decided to impeach old Bill Campbell for stepping aside from the truth. Al Stacey was first sworn for his veracity. To the fourth witness, John Lambert was then put the usual question, "How is Bill Campbell regarded in your neighborhood as to truthfulness and honor." "O" he drawled, "I guess he's about an average of the neighborhood." This in connection with the preceding testimony as to Campbells lack of reliability was considered a good joke on the neighborhood, and was remembered through the county for a long time. The jury in this case gave Campbell one cent and Rhodes sixty-two and one half cents to pay cost.

When the Civil war broke out, Clarke County had about 5000 inhabitants, with a people mainly devoted to agriculture. It would hardly be expected that a war like spirit could be easily around, little was known of the spark of patriotism, which slumbers in the farmers breast until occasion called it forth.

Though there were no railroads, news of the fall of Fort Sumpter was known in three days. Everywhere there were villages and schoolhouses, excited people gathered, pledging their support to the cause of the union. May 1861, a company of thirty men, under Captain Samuel P. Glenn went first to Eddyville, then to Burlington and were mustered into service July 17--. The first company was added too from time to time until a large company was formed.

At close of war, when the regiments were mustered out Clarke counties surviving volunteers returned home and resumed their occupation, building a commonwealth which is enjoyed by the present generation.

PIONEER DAYS IN CLARKE COUNTY
by Mrs. Elizabeth M. Foster.

The families of L. R. Kegley, my father, and Wm. Farley came to Clarke County in the spring of 1851.
There were only two other families here at the time, they being Mormons, who had become stranded and had camped three miles north of where Osceola now stands. It was here my father camped. He erected a rail pen and covered it with brush and grass, without a floor or stove. The Farley family lived in their covered wagon the first summer.

The first summer was a rainy season. I recall my father telling of the water filling up the furrow behind him as he plowed.
My mother made her spring garden on top of gopher mounds. Aside from this garden, they raised only a small amount of buckwheat, which my mother ground in her coffee mill. There was plenty of wild honey and deer for meat.
During the summer my father got out logs enough for a small cabin which he built on the land he entered at $1.25 per acre, just 1½ miles north of where Osceola now stands. The cabin was about 12 X 12 feet, one room with a small fire place. It was in this cabin that I was born on the 27th day of October, 1851, being the first white child born in Osceola Township, the Town of Osceola had not yet been laid out. Soon after it was laid out, Mose Lamson moved up from near Hopeville and here Miss Amanda Lamson was born and still resides.

My father, with Wm. Farley, Jerry Jenks and others, laid out the town. I recall that my father and some others stood out for a large public square, while some others wanted it smaller. They said the town would grow and so it was laid out as it now stands.

The nearest post office and doctor was Chariton.
Soon after the town was laid out, George Howe came and started a general store. It was made of logs. My father and Wm. Farley helped to hew the logs and frame the building, which stood where the Lewis Block now stands. It was later moved north on the alley by the lumber yard, where it stood for years, finally being used as a blacksmith shop.

The first school was taught by Sarah Polley, daughter of Rev. Jas. Polley. She would go to the different cabins and the children would all meet her there.
The first school house was built in 1857 by Josiah and Thomas Trent. It was a frame building and was located two miles northeast of Osceola. The first teacher was Jesse Lewis and the second was Cord Johnson, well known to many of the older folks.
The first public school was a frame building where the fire hall now stands on the northwest corner of the square. The teachers were R. A. Dague, Georgie DeVall and Emma DeSelm.
Later the west ward school building was built and in 1867 I attended school there as did my husband, Wm. Foster. Professor McKee, father of Mrs. Phil Fowler was principal. The building has changed very little since that time.

I recall hearing my older brother and sister tell of their first 4th of July celebration. A company of men went to the timber and cut saplings and made an artificial grove near where the stock yards are located and here the affair was held. They remembered quite well how the men folks made up a small purse and sent Cage Collier to Howe's store to get candy for the children and when he returned the candy was placed in each child's lap as they sat in a row on the ground.

The first railroad came into Osceola in 1867. The first grist mill was run by Adam Kerns. Sixty-two years ago Smith & Gross operated the first and only woolen mill ever in Osceola. Our mothers all knew how to take the wool from the sheep and make it into cloth. The mothers would all get together and plan their different stripes for their best flannel dresses. Many were the wool pickings at the different neighbors to fluff up the wool ready for the mill. Their linen they made from the flax they raised, even to their sewing thread. There was little furniture, most of it being home made. There was no fruit to can, aside from wild grapes, plums and crab apples.

My father built the first frame house in the country for miles around. It was then considered fine. It had two rooms down stairs and one up stairs, with a large fire place. That my mother cooked on for a number of years. We bought our first cook stove from a family that had come here but decided to go back East, so father bought the stove.

I can remember seeing the fire kindled in the fire place with the old flint rock. And can also remember our neighbor Henry Sadoris walking four miles to the Farleys to borrow fire coals to start his fire before breakfast.

Emigration began to come through and well I recall how our floor would be covered with the beds of these people, a stranger was never turned from our door. Among the very early settlers, I remember the families of George Paul, McCager Parrish, David Barnhill, Lorenzo Fowler, Ben Arnold, Ivan Ellis, Adam and Jacob Lingle, Wesley and Reuben Johnson, Asa Fleming, Dick Webster and John Lewis. Then shortly following these came the Hunts, Trents, Williams, Wiggins, Bennetts, Wyants, Woolmans, Clines, Tatums, Folgers, Detricks, Fouches, Christys, Becketts, Delongs, Ridgways, Dares, Otis, Rifes, Shocklings, McDonoughs, Twombleys, Raricks, Thomas, Butchers, Barnards, Wileys, Richards, Judge Rice, Daniels, Morgans, Middleswartz, Wilsons, Dr. Laws, Neffs, Neals, Gibsons, Prof. McKee, Chaney, Siglers, Burrows, Goetchus, Forneys, Harts, Egglestons, Rankin, Glunt, Mitchells.

At the beginning of our homestead life there were many Indians here. At one time they came to my mother's door when she was alone and made signs they wanted coffee. So while they were putting the coffee away, mother told them that she had to go to a sick neighbor, and she took us three children and went over to the neighbors.

People had few things to eat those days, which reminds me of a story an old neighbor lady told me. For a considerable time they had been without breadstuff. They managed to get a bushel of corn and they sent her brother over near the Mississippi River to have it ground into meal. They had been up to this time, for several weeks, eating squash, baked, stewed and fried.
One day,while the brother was gone to mill, she called her husband in to dinner. When he came in he said, "I just can't eat squash any longer" and threw himself on the bed. Just then she looked across the prairie and saw the brother coming with his ox team.
She called to her husband to get up quick for here he comes with the meal. She made up some corn bread with salt and water and baked it by the fire place and she said she thought it was the best thing she ever tasted in her life. Some of the older folks will remember her as Mrs. Robt. Hamilton.

In August, 1859 they started to hold a religious meeting in a grove by Dr. Sam Polley's. People came for miles around. I recall some of them as the families of Jacob Roberts, Rev Jno. Polley, Jno. Lewis, Andy Linder, Wm. Carnahan, Wm. Farley, L. R. Kegley, Silas, John and George Harlan, John Musselman, Casper Carter, Allen Burrows, Jerry Stansbury, Henry Sadoris, Wm. Polley and the Gregg family from down near Smyrna. This was a meeting lasting three weeks, conducted by the Christian Church denomination.

Now in Osceola was the Old Blue Church, Osceola's first church. It stood just east of Eddy's grain office. Church and Sunday School were held there until other churches were built. A. H. Burrows was for many years superintendent. People of all denominations worshipped at this church. But the annual August meeting of the Christian Church was almost as important an event then as the State Fair is to us now.
I recall how a man came each year from Missouri with a wagon load of apples to sell during the meeting.

So as I pen these notes of Clarke County's Pioneer Days, I look back with pleasure over the many happenings in the place where I have spent the eighty years of my life this October.

E. T. WEBSTER, AUDITOR
R. J. JUDKINS, DEPUTY

OFFICE OF
AUDITOR OF CLARKE COUNTY
OSCEOLA, IOWA

September the 22 - 1923

having just read the account of the Goble incident on page 512 it calls to my mind in a very vivid way my partin in that affair. a man came riding a Horse covered with Sweat up to our House who told my mother in a very excited manner that the Brush and woods near the Gobel place was full of Rebels and that it was necessary for the men throughout the neighborhood to assembel at once for the protection of our Homes. he was anxious that someone should go over to the Harrisone Neighborhood and arouse the people and have the men assemble at Liberty and bring their Guns mother told him that I could go. which I proceeded to do I rode up to the Home of a Mr Geo Crawford and told the story as it was related to us by the messenger on the foaming steed. he thought it hardly possable that it was as bad as related however he would tell the neighbors and they would go to Liberty with their Guns as directed. I was about nine years old at that time but could ride a Horse anywhere over the Prairie

John W Boden